

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 26, 2008

**Buy South Carolina.
Nothing's Fresher. Nothing's Finer.**

City of Greenville Farmers Market receives USDA grant

GREENVILLE, SC – The City of Greenville recently was awarded a USDA grant for \$9,442 for the Carolina First Farmers Market. The grant, administered by the USDA Ag Marketing Service, is one of 85 totaling over \$3 million directed by the new farm bill to spread the use of farmers markets throughout the nation.

Eighteen of the 85 grants promote a new electronic benefit transfers (EBT) to help low-income consumers buy locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

"Farmers markets are an increasingly popular source of fruits and vegetables," said Hugh Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture. "Locally grown sales of fresh produce strengthen economies across the state by keeping dollars in the communities."

In 2002, the City of Greenville established the open-air downtown farmers market for the sale of locally grown farm products, arts, and crafts in order to attract people downtown and provide a resource for the booming residential development taking place.

The market held under the shade trees at South Main and McBee Avenue is an ideal location for Downtown Greenville foot traffic. The Market Manager, Morgan Cox, says, "It's more than just a market. It's a chance to experience the country without leaving the city." New features included musical performances, cooking demonstrations, and a weekly booth space dedicated to local non-profits.

Carolina First Saturday Market is open May through November, Saturdays, 8 am to Noon. The market accepts Senior Checks and WIC. For more information about the Carolina First Saturday Market, contact [Morgan Cox](mailto:Morgan.Cox@scda.sc.gov), 864- 467-4494, or visit www.saturdaymarketlive.com.

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